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an optical system for dividing a beam in one direction; and
an optical system for overlapping divided laser beams,
wherein in said direction a width of said optical system for dividing is
narrower than the maximum width of the laser beam before being divided.

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(Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus comprising:
a cylindrical lens group for dividing a laser beam in one direction; and
an optical system for overlapping divided laser beams,
wherein a portion of the cylindrical lens of said cylindrical lens group is
shielded.

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Please add new claims 5-17 as follows.

4 ~~1~~ An apparatus according to claim *2*, wherein said lens is a cylindrical lens group.

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5 An apparatus according to claim ~~2~~, wherein said optical system for dividing
said laser beam is a cylindrical lens group.

6 An apparatus according to claim ~~4~~, wherein at least cylindrical lens
comprises quartz ground glass.

7 ~~8~~ A laser irradiation apparatus comprising:
a beam generating unit for generating a laser beam such that a cross section
of said laser beam extends in both width and longitudinal directions;

a cylindrical lens group for dividing said laser beam in one of said width and longitudinal directions;

an optical system for overlapping divided laser beams; and

a slit located between said beam generating unit and said cylindrical lens group for making at least an edge of the laser beam in a straight line which is parallel to a longitudinal direction of each cylindrical lens in said cylindrical lens group.

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full
claim 8
An apparatus according to claim ~~8~~, further comprising a means for irradiating the overlapped laser beam to a substrate.

claim 9
claim 8
10. An apparatus according to claim ~~8~~, wherein said substrate is selected from the group consisting of a glass substrate, a quartz substrate, a ceramic substrate, a semiconductor substrate, a plastic substrate, and an organic resin substrate.

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claim 10
11. A laser irradiation apparatus comprising:
a beam generating unit for generating a laser beam such that a cross section of said laser beam extends in both width and longitudinal directions;
a cylindrical lens group for dividing said laser beam in one of said width and longitudinal directions;
an optical system for overlapping divided laser beams; and
a slit located between said beam generating unit and said cylindrical lens group for making at least an edge of the laser beam in a straight line which is vertical to a width direction of said cylindrical lens group.

claim 11
claim 10
12. An apparatus according to claim ~~11~~, further comprising a means for irradiating the overlapped laser beam to a substrate.